

Mark C. Curran Jr. Sheriff

Raymond J. Rose Undersheriff

MEDIA RELEASE

Lake County Sheriff's Office • 25 South Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue • Waukegan, Illinois 60085

2014 *CLICK IT OR TICKET* MEMORIAL DAY POST CAMPAIGN NEWS RELEASE

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Click It or Ticket Enforcement Mobilization Ends Lake County Sheriff Continues to Hand Out Tickets for Seat Belt Violations Year-Round

Lake County – The Lake County Sheriff's Office concluded stepped-up enforcement of seat belt laws through May 25, 2014 as part of the 2014 national *Click It or Ticket* mobilization. After a 14-day police mobilization, the seat belt enforcement campaign in Lake County comes to an end with an announcement by the Lake County Sheriff's Office that included 262 total citations issued. Lake County Sheriff's Office deputies worked 6 seat belt details from May 10-May 25, 2014. Results included a total of 62 citations including 34 seat belt tickets and 7 cell phone citations.

From May 9-May 25, 2014 there were also 6 DUI patrols and one roadside safety check with Gurnee Police Department where 200 citations were issued. 10 were driving under the influence arrests, 16 driving while license suspended/revoked, 2 warrant arrests, 5 non traffic citations, 13 seat belt tickets, 11 no valid driver's license, 29 speeding tickets, 5 open transportation of alcohol and 2 minor consumption of alcohol citations were issued during the region's special safety crackdown.

“Memorial Day weekend kicked off summer vacation season, and our priority was to ensure that everyone arrived at their destinations safe and sound,” said Sheriff Mark C. Curran Jr. “We said we’d be cracking down on those not wearing their seat belts. Some people chose not to listen, and they were ticketed.”

As part of the national *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, the Lake County Sheriff's Office teamed up with law enforcement agencies from across the country to ticket motorists not wearing their seat belts. The high-visibility enforcement campaign was timed to begin with increased travel for the Memorial Day weekend.

According to new data released from the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), fatalities are up nationwide for the first time in 5 years. In 2012, 10,335 people who were killed in motor vehicle crashes were not wearing their seat belts. NHTSA data also details the fact that more traffic vehicle deaths occur at night. In 2012, 61 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed during the nighttime hours of 6 p.m. – 5:59 a.m. were not wearing their seat belts.

"The mobilization may have ended, but the crackdown on those who flaunt the law by not wearing their seat belts will continue year-round," said Sheriff Mark C. Curran Jr. "We're not issuing tickets for our own enjoyment; we're doing this to save lives. Too many people are unnecessarily dying on our roads."

In 2012 seat belts saved an estimated 12,174 lives nationwide. An additional 3,031 lives could have been saved if all unrestrained passenger vehicle occupants 5 and older involved in fatal crashes had been properly restrained.

For more information on the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/ciot.